MS
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Proposed Claims

NOT Amendment !

Proposed claims for response to December 22, 2004 Office Action in US Patent Application No. 10/700,674

1 – 61. (Canceled)

62. (Original) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush having bristles and extending across the forward compartment;

c) an electric motor in the rear compartment; and

d) a belt connecting the motor and rotatable brush;

wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

63. (Original) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 62, further comprising a handle rotatable about an axial direction of the handle to facilitate steering of the apparatus.

64. (Original) The apparatus of claim 63 , wherein the handle is further pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

65 - 66. (Canceled)

67. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising an intermediate compartment defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

68. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

69. (Original) The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the removable side wall includes a cover.

70. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67 or 68, wherein the intermediate compartment includes a tray that can be removed and emptied so as to discharge debris.

71. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

72. (Original) The apparatus of claim 71, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris and the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from the removable side wall.

73. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

74. (Original) The apparatus of claim 73, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

75. (Original) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

76. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the rear compartment is provided with ground-engaging wheels.

77. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush; and

d) a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor,

wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

78. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 77, further comprising an intermediate compartment for collecting debris.

79. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 78, wherein a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment is inclined rearwardly.

80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

81. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein a wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

82. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

83. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 78, wherein the intermediate compartment includes means for receiving debris from the forward compartment, said means being removable to be emptied so as to discharge debris.

84. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment, an intermediate compartment for collecting debris, and a rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment; and

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush,

wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment, and

wherein a wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

85. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 84, further comprising a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor.

86. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

87. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein a wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

88. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

89 – 92. (Canceled)

93. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 89,~~ A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment, an intermediate compartment for collecting debris, and a rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment;

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush; and

d) a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor,

wherein a wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly, and

wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

94. (Previously Presented) A surface cleaning apparatus comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment with an opening in a lower surface thereof, and a rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment, the bristles adapted to extend through the opening in the forward compartment as the brush arrangement is rotated; and

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush,

wherein the lower front region of the body is chamfered to increase the extent to which the bristles protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

95. (Canceled)

96. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A surface cleaning apparatus ~~of claim 94,~~ comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment with an opening in a lower surface thereof, and a rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush extending across the forward compartment, the bristles adapted to extend through the opening in the forward compartment as the brush arrangement is rotated; and

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush,

wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered to increase the extent to which the bristles protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased, and

wherein the apparatus further comprises an intermediate compartment for collecting debris.

97 – 98. (Canceled)

99. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein the intermediate compartment includes means for receiving debris from the forward compartment, said means being removable to be emptied so as to discharge debris.

100. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein a wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

101. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 100, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

102. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein a wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.

103 – 105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 94, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

107 – 109. (Canceled)

110. (Previously Presented) The surface cleaning apparatus of claim 94, further comprising a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor.

111. (New) The apparatus of claim 96, wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

112. (New) The apparatus of claim 96, further comprising a motor switch located at the rear of the housing to control operation of the motor.

113. (New) The apparatus of claim 62, wherein the forward compartment further comprises an opening in a lower surface thereof, and wherein a lower front region of the body is chamfered so that bristles of the elongate brush protrude from the body in the region of the chamfer such that, when the apparatus is inclined relative to a surface to be cleaned, contact between the bristles and the surface to be cleaned is increased.

114. (New) A surface cleaning apparatus, comprising:

a) a body having a forward compartment and rear compartment;

b) an elongate rotatable brush having bristles and extending across the forward compartment; and

c) a belt connecting an electric motor to the rotatable brush;

wherein a front part of the forward compartment is movable to expose bristles on the elongate rotatable brush at the front part of the forward compartment.

115. (New) The apparatus of claim 114, further comprising a handle rotatable about an axial direction of the handle to facilitate steering of the apparatus.

116. (New) The apparatus of claim 115 , wherein the handle is further pivotable about an axis transverse to the axial direction of the handle.

117. (Original)The apparatus of claim 114, further comprising an intermediate compartment defined by a wall between the forward compartment and the intermediate compartment, a wall between the intermediate compartment and the rear compartment, and side walls.

118. (Original)The apparatus of claim 117, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris.

119. (Original)The apparatus of claim 118, wherein the removable side wall includes a cover.

120. (Original)The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the intermediate compartment includes a tray that can be removed and emptied so as to discharge debris.

121. (Original)The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the belt is enclosed within a tunnel that passes through the intermediate compartment.

122. (Original)The apparatus of claim 121, wherein one side wall is removable to facilitate removal of debris and the tunnel is arranged at a side remote from the removable side wall.

123. (Original)The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments is inclined rearwardly.

124. (Original)The apparatus of claim 123, wherein the wall between the forward and intermediate compartments has an angle of inclination of from 15 to 20 degrees.

125. (Original)The apparatus of claim 117, wherein the wall between the intermediate and rear compartments seals the rear compartment from the intermediate compartment.